

## **Meeting Summary**

**Meeting:** Rubber Manufacturers Association and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Meeting on Federal Research Action Plan on the Use of Recycled Tire Crumb on Playing Fields and Playgrounds

**Date:** April 7, 2016; 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

**Location:** U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery  
One Potomac Yard  
2777 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Room S-6100

### **Participants:**

#### **Organization**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Rubber Manufacturers Association

#### **Representative**

Brandon Bray, ORCR  
Chris Carusiello, ORCR  
Fred Hauchman, Office of Research and Development (ORD)  
Ksenija Janjic, ORCR  
Gabrielle Joseph, ORCR  
Jacqueline McQueen, ORD  
Charlotte Mooney, ORCR  
Kelley Smith, ORD  
Nicole Villamizar, ORCR  
Sarah Amick  
Tracey Norberg

### **I. Welcome/Introductions**

RMA thanked EPA for agreeing to meet with the RMA to share information with EPA on tires and tire manufacturing, which may help to inform the Federal Research Action Plan on the Use of Recycled Tire Crumb on Playing Fields and Playgrounds, and for EPA to share information on the federal plan. RMA also indicated that the association would like to learn more about the Federal Research Plan. EPA indicated that the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery's role in this work is to handle outreach and communication with stakeholders, and to make sure they receive useful information for the study. EPA asked if RMA was also planning to meet with CPSC and RMA asked for EPA's advice as to how RMA should interface with the various government agencies working on the study.

## **II. Overview of EPA's role in implementing the *Federal Research Action Plan***

EPA recommended that RMA look at the publically available information on the study as a useful resource. RMA stated that they were interested in learning more about how EPA plans to work with the other agencies and with CA OEHHA. RMA also mentioned that the EPA study is focused on crumb rubber and asked EPA what questions they hope to answer by focusing on crumb rubber instead of the entire turf system.

## **III. Industry presentation and discussion on various topics**

RMA informed EPA that they met with CA OEHHA and plan to meet with them again to respond to questions raised during the first meeting. RMA offered to meet with EPA again to follow-up on any questions raised by EPA during the meeting.

RMA gave a presentation addressing several topics. A copy of RMA's presentation is attached to these minutes for reference. RMA informed EPA of their membership and organization. RMA then provided an overview of recent tire shipment data, an overview of how tires are made and the various tire manufacturing processes. RMA showed a video on YouTube, which shows the tire manufacturing process (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o9mVZxoayA>).

EPA asked RMA what happens to tires that are rejected during manufacturing. RMA responded that there are uses for uncured rubber, especially if the uncured rubber contains no metal. Once a tire is cured and then rejected, the tire becomes scrap and manufacturers often have contractual agreements with scrap tire processors to manage these materials.

EPA inquired as to whether RMA members manufacture synthetic rubber. RMA responded that some RMA members mix their own synthetic rubber while others purchase synthetic rubber from manufacturers. RMA also mentioned that the International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers represents synthetic rubber manufacturers.

RMA provided additional information about basic ingredients in tires and the vulcanization process. They then provided an overview of tire performance regulations established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. RMA also informed EPA that consumers play an important role in caring for their tires by checking tire pressure and tread depth, and rotating tires every 5,000-8,000 miles.

RMA then provided an overview of the U.S. scrap tire market and mentioned to EPA that they collect data and publish a Scrap Tire Market Report biannually. EPA asked additional questions about the rubber modified asphalt market and whether the use of rubber modified asphalt was common across the U.S. RMA indicated that it collects scrap tire market data every two years. The most recent published data is from 2013 and is available on RMA's website. RMA is working to collect and analyze 2015 data now.

RMA also informed EPA of the Tire Industry Project. In 2005 the global tire industry CEOs gathered in Geneva to discuss how the tire industry should address upcoming environmental issues. From that discussion, they formed the Tire Industry Project through the World Business Council for Sustainable

Development. RMA indicated that the work of the Tire Industry Project is available on the World Business Council for Sustainable Development website at <http://www.wbcsd.org/tires.aspx>.

#### **IV. Further discussion**

RMA mentioned that crumb rubber used in synthetic turf fields may be coated with antimicrobial or antistatic agents. EPA asked RMA if there was a source for this information and RMA recommended that the Synthetic Turf Council website is a good source for this information.

EPA mentioned that there is a question about the variability of tire crumb, especially with tires coming from China. RMA indicated to EPA that they do not have any data on this issue.

RMA mentioned to EPA that the ingredients in tires are not what is found in a finished tire due to the vulcanization process. RMA further specified that the temperature reached during the vulcanization process eliminates residual tire ingredients.

RMA mentioned to EPA that it would be helpful to get a better sense of how EPA is coordinating with the other agencies. EPA responded that they are coordinating efforts with CPSC, EPA and CDC.

RMA informed EPA that they are happy to facilitate a meeting with the technical consultants for the Tire Industry Project. EPA stated that it could be valuable to have a discussion with the technical folks.

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